

# CutBank

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## This Time

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THIS TIME

—for Martha

This time I count the days in pairs.  
Every car that doesn't bring you  
brings the blood rushing back  
bruising lifeless veins to blue.  
My rusty heart sputters to a halt.

I collect the pages of unread letters  
collecting dust. Friends lend me  
ones I pretend you wrote.  
If the telephone should ring  
I might answer in a squeaky  
voice—no one home.

I've decided to stay busy;  
feed the cat  
just enough, complain about  
my cooking. The snow is melting.  
I write silly poems  
and show them to strangers.  
Somehow this time really matters.